

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-61. (Canceled)
62. (Canceled)
63. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~62-94~~ wherein the organic waste is reduced after it is dried.
64. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~62-94~~ wherein the organic waste is reduced before it is dried.
65. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~62-94~~ further comprising wherein forming ~~a the mixture comprises~~ by mixing the pieces with water and a biodegradable binder.
66. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~65-94~~ further comprising forming the mixture into a shape.
67. (Canceled)
68. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~67-94~~ wherein the drying further ~~comprises further comprising heating the step of heating the shaped mixture.~~
69. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~67-68~~ further comprising removing liquid water from the mixture.
70. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 69 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a subsequent process for producing a unitary biodegradable solid.

71. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~67-68~~ further comprising capturing water vapor emitted while drying the ~~shaped~~ mixture.

72. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 71 further comprising converting the captured water vapor to liquid water.

73. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 72 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a subsequent process for producing a unitary biodegradable solid.

74. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~65-94~~ wherein the water or biodegradable binder in the mixture is obtained from the raw organic waste.

75. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 74 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.

76. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 75 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by ~~the~~ heating.

77. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 65 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.

78. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 77 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by the heating.

79. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for processing organic waste comprising,
- (a) a plenum for receiving organic matter;
 - (b) a first opening for admitting organic matter into the plenum;
 - (c) a reducing implement for reducing organic matter to pieces;
 - (d) a passageway for transferring reduced organic matter from the plenum to a form for supporting the discharged organic matter; and,
 - (e) a second opening for removing solid from the processing area.

80. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein the plenum has a lid for closing the first opening.

81. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising a screen within the plenum and wherein the passageway is located between the outside of the screen and the plenum, whereby organic waste does not enter the passageway until it has been reduced to less than the size of the openings of the screen.

82. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising an inlet to add water to the plenum.

83. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising a vent for removing water vapor.

84. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising a collector for collecting water vapor.

85. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 84 further providing a water extractor for extracting liquid water from the collected water vapor.

86. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claims 80 further comprising a receptacle for liquid water.

87. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising a passage for liquid water to pass from the receptacle to the plenum.

88. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claims 86 wherein the receptacle receives liquid water collected from extracted water vapor.

89. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising an injector for introducing a binder to the organic matter.

90. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising a heater for heating the shaped organic matter.

91. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 79 further comprising a receiving module and a processing module, the receiving module comprising the first opening, the plenum, and the reducing element, the processing module comprising the form and the second opening, and the passageway extending between the receiving module and the processing module through which the reduced organic matter may be transferred from the plenum to the form, wherein the receiving module is removably coupled to the processing module.

92. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 91 wherein the receiving module has a lid for closing the first opening.

93. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 92 wherein the receiving module further comprises a closure for the passageway, wherein when both the closure and lid are closed they reduce the emission of odors from the plenum.

94. (New) A process for producing a biodegradable solid of organic waste comprising:

reducing raw organic waste to pieces;
mixing the pieces with a biodegradable binder to form a mixture; and
forming a unitary biodegradable solid from the mixture by drying the mixture
wherein the reduced raw organic waste pieces are converted to a unitary biodegradable solid.

95. (New) The process of claim 94 wherein the drying comprises drying the mixture to a moisture content at which it is free of odors caused by microbial activity.